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Japan: Prime Minister Sato's Liberal Democratic Party election victory on 27 December exceeded even the most optimistic forecasts of the party leadership.

The conservatives won 288 seats in the 486-seat Lower House, and their total strength was boosted to 300 when a dozen successful independent candidates joined the party following the election. The largest opposition party, the Socialist, suffered a humiliating defeat, picking up only 90 seats compared with the 140 it won in the 1967 general elections.

Ruling Liberal Democratic leaders will interpret these results as a mandate for maintaining Sato's policies of continued close security ties with the US and as approval for the agreement he recently negotiated with the US for the reversion of Okinawa to Japanese control.

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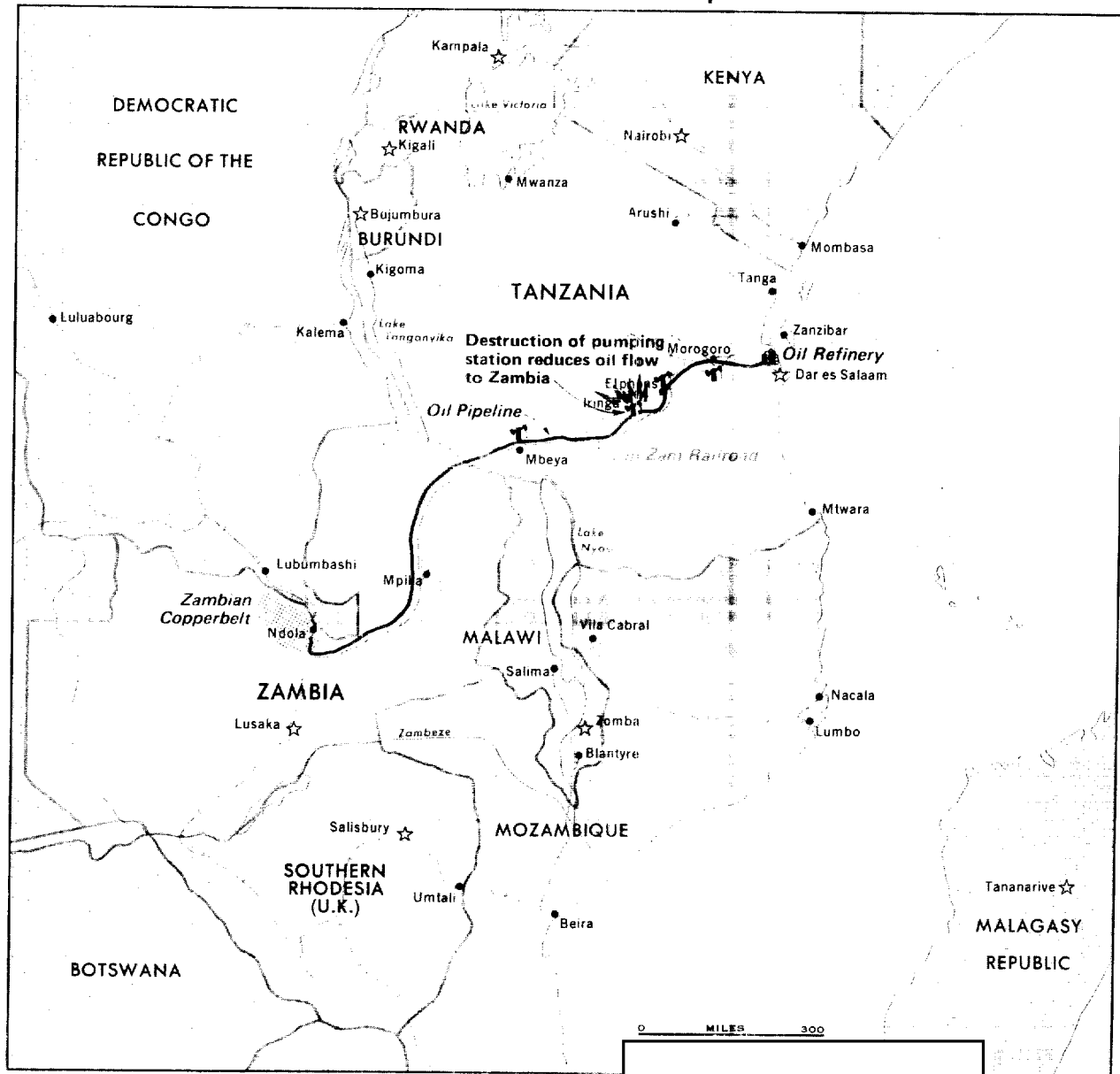
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Tanzania/Zambia: Saboteurs Strike Tan-Zam Oil Pipeline



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NOTES

Nonproliferation Treaty: The treaty may be brought into force by mid-January. An additional 23 signatories have indicated they will probably be able to deposit their instruments of ratification by then, thus bringing the number of nations adhering to the treaty above the 43 required for it to go into force. Once the treaty is in force, nonnuclear parties to it must begin negotiating safeguards agreements--designed to prevent fissionable material from being diverted from peaceful uses--with the International Atomic Energy Agency within six months.

* * * *

Tanzania-Zambia: The sabotage of a pumping station on the 1,000-mile Zambia-Tanzania pipeline on 25 December has reduced oil flow over the line to ten percent of normal. Repairs will take weeks and arrangements are being made to truck oil to Zambia, which is dependent on the pipeline for all of its refined oil, from Tanzania if required. It is not known who organized the sabotage, but Tanzanian and Zambian authorities probably suspect the Portuguese secret police. Both the Lusaka and Dar es Salaam governments are probably also fearful that the sabotage signals an increased willingness of the white regimes in southern Africa to retaliate against them because of their support of insurgent movements, and their increasing reliance on the Chinese Communists.

(Map)

(continued)

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